per acre of land that was to be brought under irrigation; if not, how much it was; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the capital cost, including the cost of interest and other pre-operational expenditure to be capitalised, of Sardar Sarovar project to be constructed on river Narmada works out to about rupees 54000/- per acre of land to be irrigated; if not, how much it is going to work out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) The cost of irrigation from Bhakra Nangal Project was about Rs. 2000/- per hectare compared to over Rs. 18,000/- per hectare for Sardar Sarovar Project.

Tapping underground water resources

673. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to tap the underground water resources in the water scarcity areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this direction in the State of Rajashan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) An irrigation potential of 3.6, 2 6, 1 0; 0.7, 4 66, 2.65, 4.32, 2.60 and 0 70 lakh hectares in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu respectfively is planned to be created from ground water during the Seventh Plan.

(c) The steps taken to accelerate development of ground water are allocation of higher financial provisions under plan and Institutional Sectors, strengthening of State Ground Water Organisation and increased participation of Central Ground Water Board in the programme of investigation and development of groundwater.

Diversion of surplus water from the Eastern region

674. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to divert the surplus waters of the rivers of the Eastern region to water scarcity areas in the Western and Southern regions of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the manner in which Government propose to tackle the chronic problem of floods in the Eastern region and utilise the surplus waters of the rivers of this region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) The National Perspective for Water Resources Development envisages transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins by interlinking of rivers and construction of storages.

(b) and (c) The perspective has two components:

(i) Himalayan Rivers Development envisaging interlinking of Brahmaputra and Ganga, Kosi, Gandak, Ghaghra, Ramganga; Yamuna and Ganga and Yamuna, Sutlej, Beas and Ravi.

(ii) Peninsular River Development envisaging interlinking of